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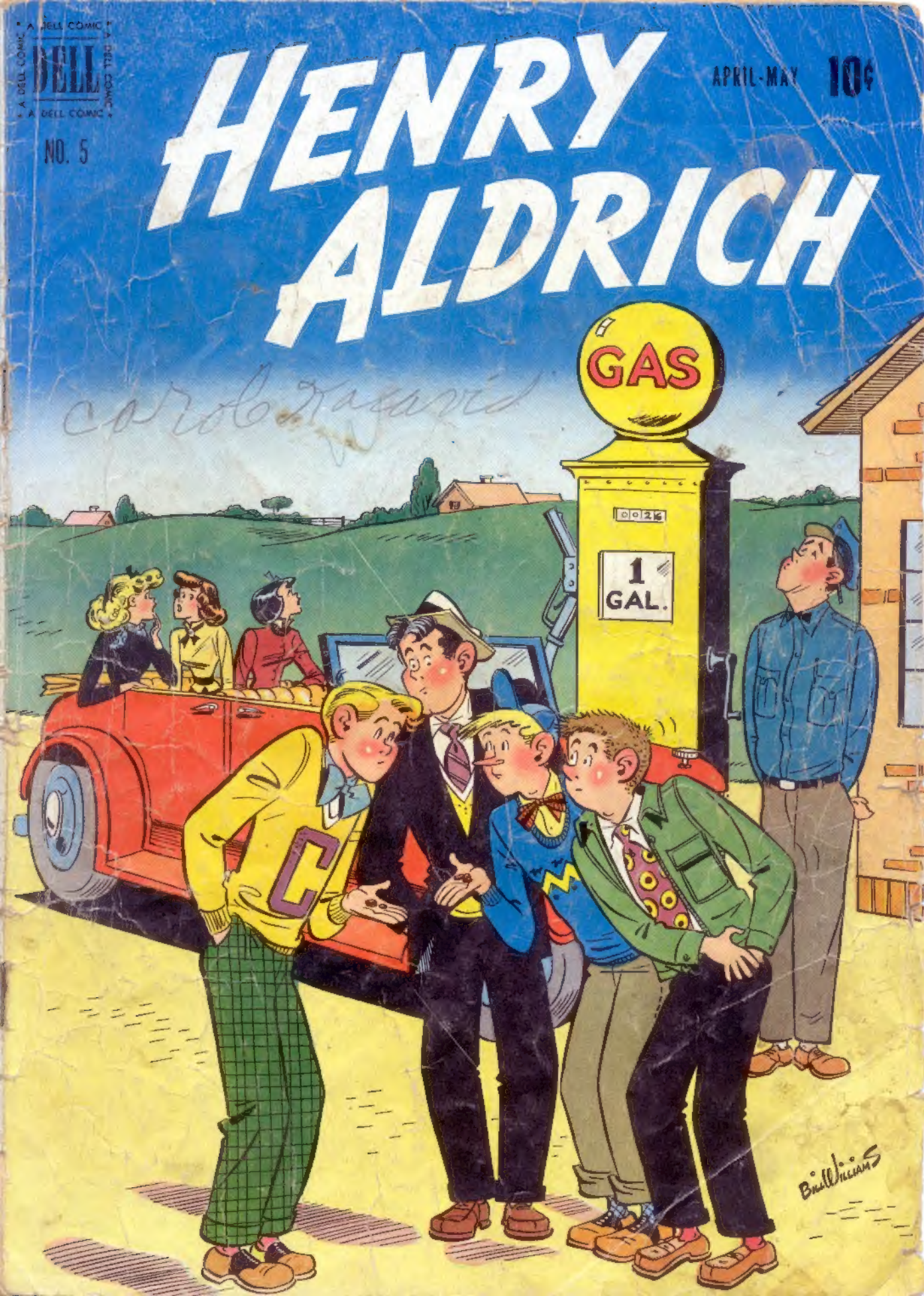
NO. 5

HENRY ALDRICH

APRIL-MAY 10¢



HENRY ALDRICH plans the picnic

Henry Aldrich came into the front room, peeled off his sweater, and flopped down on the sofa. "Gee whiz, Father, why do I always get hooked?" he groaned.

"Get hooked?" Mr. Aldrich replied. "What do you mean, Henry? Have you been fishing again. . . .?"

Henry sat up and scowled. "No, Father, it's just that I'm ALWAYS the fellow who has to do the work!"

Mrs. Aldrich, in the next room, setting the table for dinner, smiled.

"You see, Father," Henry continued, "I was appointed chairman of the food committee for the class picnic."

Henry's mother set down the sugar bowl firmly. "Now, Henry," she exclaimed, "remember what happened the LAST time you had anything to do with food for class activities. I won't have you using up a week's supply of groceries and messing up my kitchen again!"

There was a knock on the front door.

"That's Homer," Henry announced, getting up wearily. "He's chairman of the transportation committee."

"Hello, Homer, come on in."

"Whatever you're having for dinner certainly smells good, Henry," sighed Homer, and sniffed loudly.

"Homer, you'll join us for dinner, won't you?" Henry's mother asked. "After all, we CAN furnish something for a friend of the chairman of the food committee!"

"Thank you, Mrs. Aldrich," Homer laughed, "I would like to very much!"

Then in an undertone to Henry, he continued, "Uh, Henry, have you asked your father yet?"

Mr. Aldrich looked up, "Did he ask me what, Homer?"

"Er — ask him now, Henry," Homer whispered.

"Well, Father," Henry began, "could I borrow the car tomorrow?"

"I'm afraid not, Henry. I'm driving Mr. Wilkinson to Centerville tomorrow."

"Couldn't you take the bus, Mr. Aldrich?" asked Homer.

Mrs. Aldrich came into the room. "Dinner's ready, boys," she announced.

"Look, Henry," muttered Homer, "you said that I could COUNT on it. Now what'll I do for transportation?"

"Gee whiz, Homer, I thought—" began Henry, but dinner was on the table and there were more immediate things to consider.

After dinner, the chairmen of the food committee and of the transportation committee immediately retired to the living room with pencil and paper and began work.

(Continued on inside back cover)

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HENRY ALDRICH

HI, FELLOWS!

'LO, WILLY.

HI.

TODAY SPECIAL

SODA SHOPPE

Baldwin

CLOSE YOUR MOUTH AND OPEN YOUR EYES, GUYS!

? ? ?

H.A. 5-514

WHAT DO YOU SEE?

YOU DIDN'T SHAVE THIS MORNING, WILLY! SHAME ON YOU!

NEVER MIND THAT, GEORGE! WHAT ELSE DO YOU SEE?
HEY, WHAT IS THIS, WILLY?
HE'S MAD! MAD!
THE SOCKS! THE SOCKS!
WE'RE ALL WEARING SOCKS TODAY, WILLY!
SURE I'M WEARING A COUPLE MYSELF!
HAH! WHERE DID YOUR SOCKS COME FROM, FELLOWS?
WHY... MY MOTHER BOUGHT MINE!
OH... I JUST FOUND MINE LYING AROUND THE PLACE...
WELL, THESE HERE SOCKS ARE DIFFERENT! THEY'RE ARGYLE SOCKS! THEY WERE KNITTED BY HAND!
THAT'S VERY INTERESTING, WILLY, BUT WHO CARES?
YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED TO KNOW THAT ALL THE GIRLS ARE KNITTING SOCKS FOR THEIR BOY FRIENDS-- AND THESE HERE WERE KNITTED BY EDITH THOMPSON! SHE FINISHED HERS FIRST!
YOU... SAY... ALL THE GIRLS ARE KNITTING SOCKS FOR THEIR BOY FRIENDS, WILLY?
YEP! AGNES, GERALDINE-- ALL OF THEM!

DID THEY SAY *WHO* THEY WERE KNITTING THEM FOR, WILLY?

NOPE... IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE A *SECRET!!* WHEN THEY FINISH 'EM, THEY SEND 'EM THROUGH THE MAIL TO THE GUY THEY LIKE--AND THEY *DON'T SIGN THEIR NAMES!*

...THEN THEY WATCH TO SEE *WHOSE* SOCKS A GUY IS WEARING! GET IT?

HOW DO *YOU* KNOW ALL ABOUT THIS, WILLY?

EDITH TOLD ME! YOU KNOW WHAT A BIG-MOUTH *SHE* IS!

YEH.

YEH.

YEH.

BUT REMEMBER, IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE A *SECRET!* DON'T TELL ANYBODY I TOLD YOU!

YEH.

YEH.

WELL... SO LONG, FELLOWS... I'VE GOT TO RUN ALONG.

SO LONG, HENRY.

'BYE.

GOSH! IF I GET SOCKS FROM SOME *OTHER* GIRL BESIDES GERALDINE, HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO KNOW WHICH ARE *GERALDINE'S?*

I SHOULD THINK IF WILLY'S GIRL FRIEND LET HIM KNOW **ALL** ABOUT THIS, THE LEAST GERALDINE COULD DO IS GIVE ME A HINT WHAT HER SOCKS FOR ME LOOK LIKE...

...IF-- IF SHE *IS* GOING TO SEND ME A PAIR!

MAYBE SHE'LL SEND THEM TO... *GEORGE BIGELOW!*

NO...NO! GERALDINE WOULDN'T BE *THAT* FOOLISH! AND BESIDES, I'M SURE GEORGE'S *FEET* ARE BIGGER THAN MINE! WHY SHOULD SHE GO TO THE TROUBLE OF KNITTING SOCKS BIGGER THAN SHE *HAS* TO?

I... THINK I KNOW A WAY I CAN HINT TO GERALDINE THAT I'D LIKE TO KNOW...

I JUST HOPE I'LL FIND HER AT HOME.

HEY, GEORGE-- WHERE DO *YOU* THINK *YOU'RE* GOING?

I-I'M CALLING ON GERALDINE! ANY OBJECTIONS, HENRY?

CAN'T YOU THINK OF SOME *OTHER* GIRL TO CALL ON, GEORGE?

I WAS HERE FIRST, HENRY! WHY DON'T YOU TRY TO BE A GENTLEMAN?

HAH! LOOK WHO'S TALKING! IF *YOU* WERE A GENTLEMAN, YOU WOULDN'T TRY TO COME BETWEEN GERALDINE AND ME!

I GOT MY HAND ON THE DOOR HANDLE FIRST, HENRY!

I'M RINGING THE *BELL* FIRST, GEORGE! *THAT'S MORE IMPORTANT!*

I'M KNOCKING!

KNOCK!
KNOCK!
KNOCK!
BANG!
KNOCK!
RING!
RING!
RING!
?

HI, GERALDINE! I THOUGHT I'D DROP IN FOR A NICE, QUIET LITTLE TALK WITH YOU!

LISTEN, GERALDINE-- I WAS HERE FIRST!

WELL... I GUESS THERE'S NO REASON WHY **BOTH** OF YOU CAN'T VISIT ME AT THE SAME TIME.

SIT DOWN, BOYS... I HAVE SOME CUPCAKES IN THE OVEN... I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.

?

?

YOU'RE NOT WEARING ANY SOCKS, GEORGE!

NEITHER ARE YOU!

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE UP TO, GEORGE! YOU'RE JUST HINTING TO GERALDINE THAT YOU'D LIKE A PAIR OF ARGYLE SOCKS!

I HATE TO ADMIT THAT MY MIND WORKS LIKE YOURS, HENRY, BUT I GUESS WE BOTH HAD THE SAME IDEA!

I DON'T SEE ANY KNITTING AROUND...

WONDER WHERE HER KNITTING IS?

I'LL BET IT'S UPSTAIRS IN HER *ROOM!*

HEY! WHERE ARE *YOU* GOING, GEORGE?

GOING TO RUN UPSTAIRS TO WASH MY HANDS... BE RIGHT BACK, HENRY...

I'D LIKE TO WASH MY HANDS, TOO, GEORGE!

CAN'T I GO **ANY-WHERE** WITHOUT YOU CHASING ALONG AFTER ME?

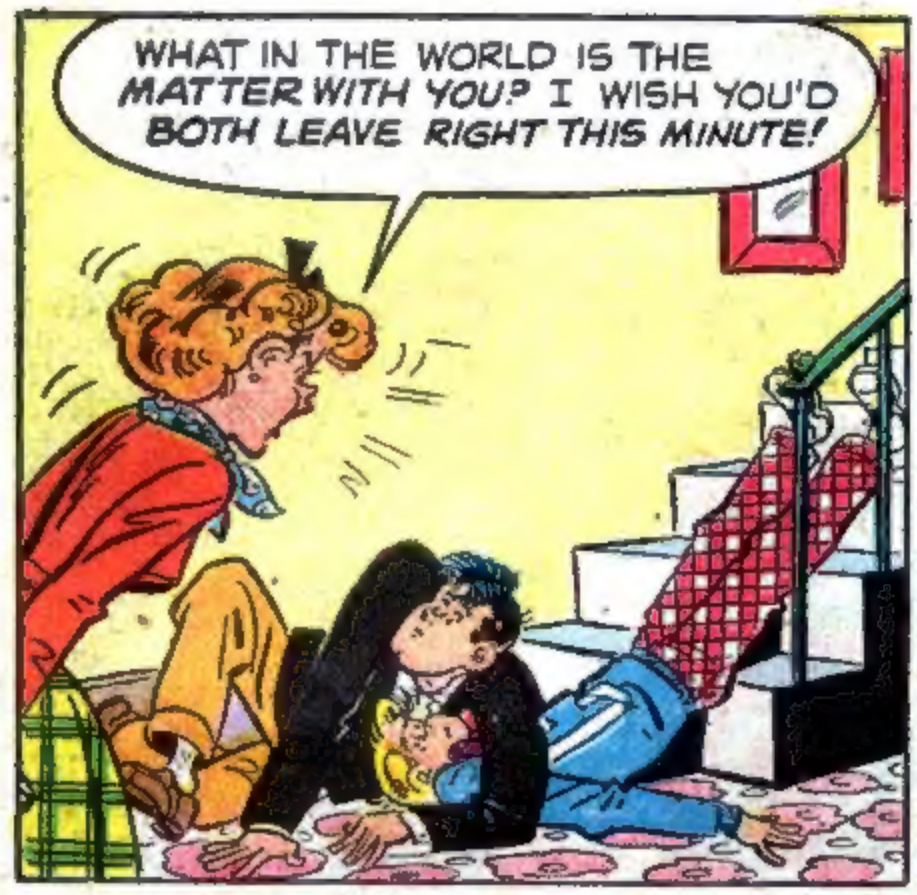
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE UP TO, GEORGE!

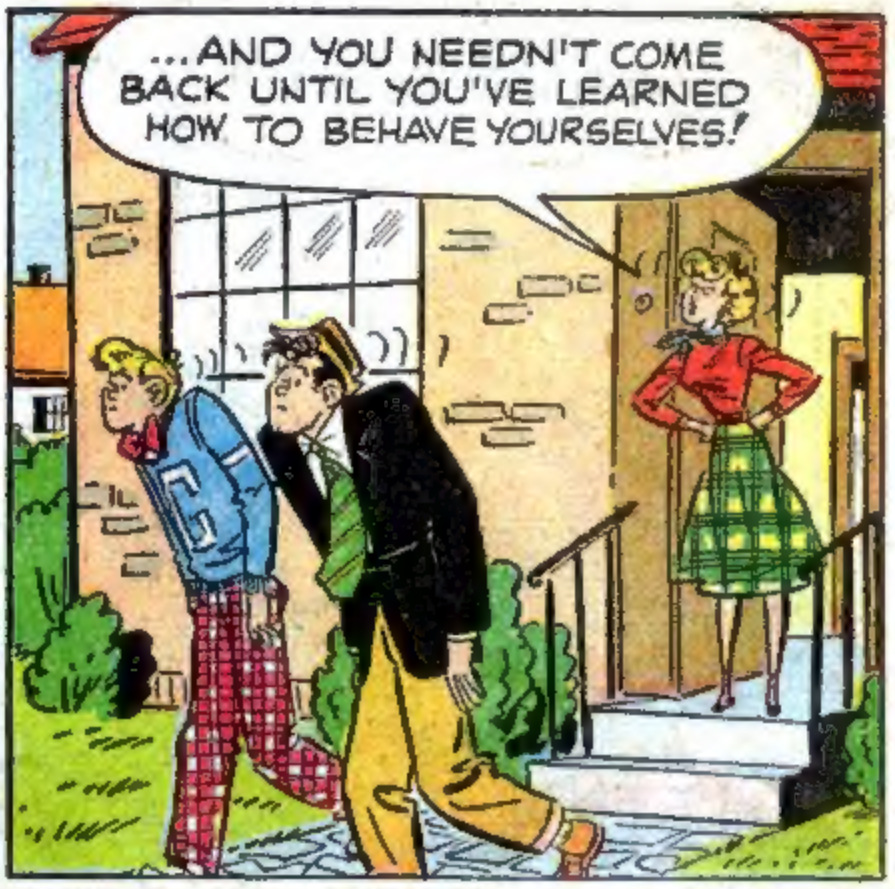
CUT IT OUT, HENRY!

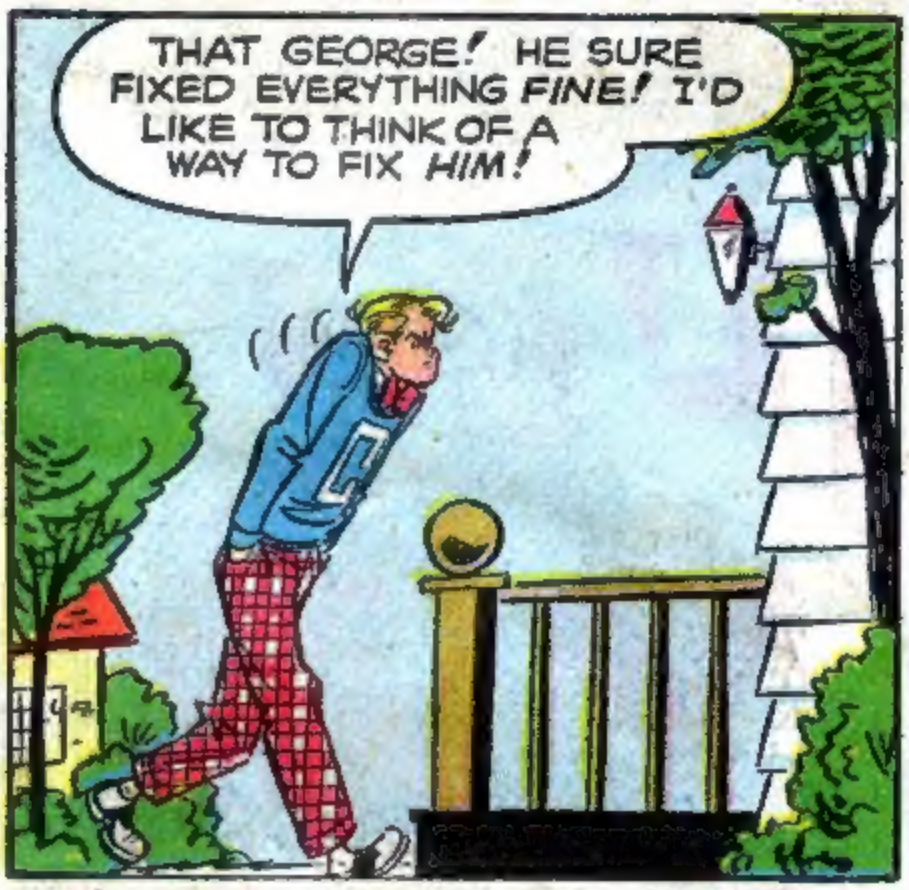
YOU'RE NOT GOING... TO GET AHEAD OF ME!

LET GO, GEORSE!

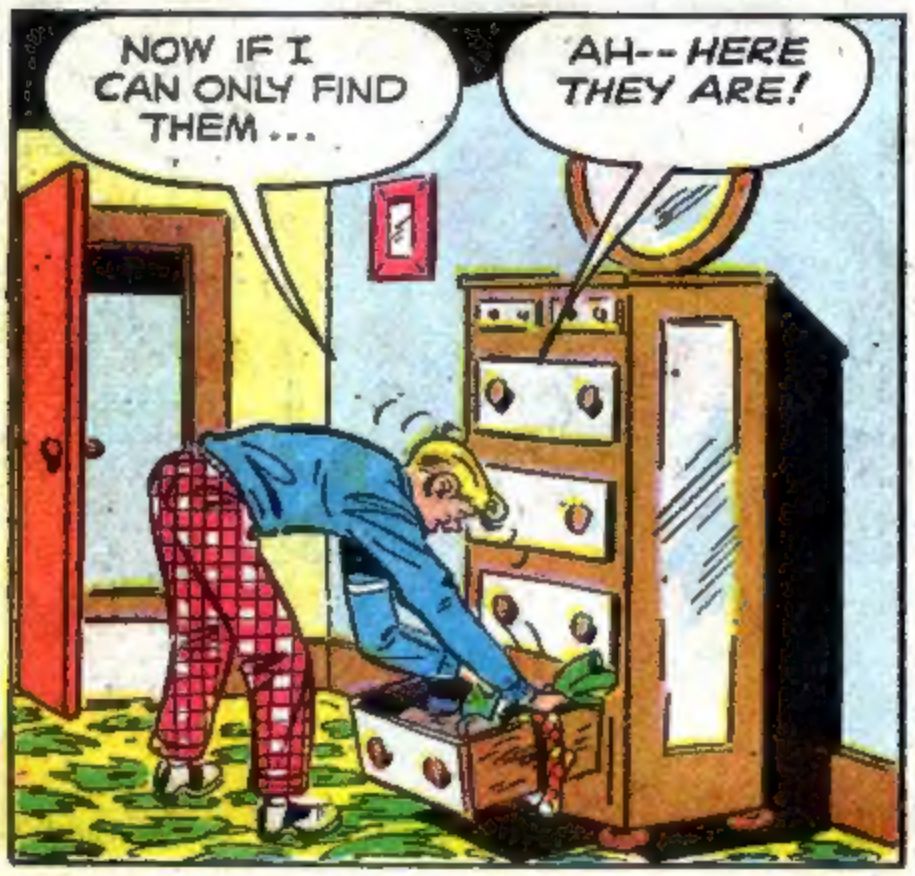
BOYS! BOYS!


WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THE MATTER WITH YOU? I WISH YOU'D BOTH LEAVE RIGHT THIS MINUTE!


...AND YOU NEEDN'T COME BACK UNTIL YOU'VE LEARNED HOW TO BEHAVE YOURSELVES!


THAT GEORGE! HE SURE FIXED EVERYTHING FINE! I'D LIKE TO THINK OF A WAY TO FIX HIM!

GEE WHIZ!! I KNOW JUST THE THING!


NOW IF I CAN ONLY FIND THEM...
AH--HERE THEY ARE!

I KNEW FATHER HAD A PAIR OF BEAT-UP OLD GREY WOOLEN SOCKS!

D-e-a-r G-e-o-r-g-e...

NEXT MORNING...

GEORGE! MAILMAN JUST LEFT SOMETHING FOR YOU!

FOR ME?

IT'S A PAIR OF SOCKS! HERE'S A NOTE!

"DEAR GEORGE, WE GIRLS PROMISED WE WOULDN'T TELL WHICH SOCKS ARE OURS, BUT I JUST COULDN'T HELP TELLING YOU THAT THIS PAIR IS FROM ME. GERALDINE."

"GOSH, MOTHER, GERALDINE KNITTED THEM FOR ME!

SHE MUST HAVE KNITTED THEM A LONG TIME AGO!

OBOY! WAIT TILL HENRY HEARS ABOUT THIS!

I'LL PUT 'EM ON RIGHT AWAY!

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SOMETHING FOR YOU, HENRY!

A PACKAGE? FOR ME?

I-I JUST HOPE IT'S WHAT I HOPE IT IS!

GEE WHIZ! IT IS A PAIR OF SOCKS! B-BUT... THEY'RE ...SO... SMALL!

HERE'S A NOTE...IT'S IN GERALDINE'S HANDWRITING..!

"DEAR HENRY, I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT THESE SOCKS ARE FROM ME... PLEASE DON'T TELL ANYONE I ENCLOSED A NOTE... LOVE, GERALDINE"

OH, BOY! WHAT IF THEY ARE A LITTLE SMALL? THEY'RE FROM GERALDINE, AND THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS!

I'LL PUT 'EM ON RIGHT AWAY!

I WONDER HOW HENRY MADE OUT...?

RING!

HENRY! IT'S HOMER!

I'M SURPRISED THAT YOU DIDN'T NOTICE MY NEW SOCKS RIGHT AWAY, MRS. ALDRICH.

COMING!

LET'S GO, HENRY... AGNES TOLD ME SHE AND GERALDINE WERE GOING TO BE AT THE SODA BAR THIS AFTERNOON.

AND STOP WORRYING ABOUT THOSE SOCKS, HENRY! AFTER ALL, YOU CAN'T EXPECT *EVERYBODY* TO KNIT AS WELL AS *AGNES!*

IT'S JUST THAT THEY'RE SO *SMALL!*

THERE'S GEORGE!

HI, GEORGE!

HI, FELLAS!

GEORGE! WHERE IN THE WORLD DID YOU GET THOSE AWFUL SOCKS?

HAH! *GERALDINE* WOULDN'T LIKE TO HEAR YOU TALK LIKE THAT ABOUT 'EM, HENRY!

GERALDINE? I'M AFRAID I DON'T UNDERSTAND, GEORGE!

YOU WILL... YOU WILL!

HERE'RE THE GIRLS! *HI, GIRLS!*

SODA SHOPPE

HI, GERALDINE!!
HI, BOYS!
THIS IS INDEED A VERY PLEASANT SURPRISE, AGNES!
YES, IMAGINE SEEING YOU HERE, HOMER!
SODA
SHOPPE

OH, WAITER! SERVICE, PLEASE!
HOMER, STOP!

OH, WHAT LOVELY SOCKS, HOMER! WHERE DID YOU GET THEM?
I CANNOT TELL A LIE! AGNES MADE THEM!

ER... HOW ABOUT THESE?
OH, GEORGE-- THEY'RE AWFUL!

HA-HA! SOME FUN, EH, GERALDINE?
WHERE'D YOU GET THOSE SOCKS, GEORGE?

I CANNOT TELL A LIE! GERALDINE MADE 'EM!
ME? I?

WHY... SURE... YOU DID, GERALDINE ...DIDN'T YOU?

I CERTAINLY DID *NOT* MAKE THOSE *AWFUL SOCKS,* GEORGE BIGELOW!

HERE, GEORGE-- TAKE A LOOK AT THE SOCKS GERALDINE *DID MAKE!*

?

THEY'RE JUST A *LITTLE* BIT TOO SMALL, GERALDINE! BUT DON'T WORRY... THEY'RE SURE TO STRETCH TO MY SIZE!

♫♫

I- I'M GLAD YOU LIKE THEM, HENRY...

WHAT? *LISTEN,* GERALDINE--

--*YOU* DIDN'T SEND THOSE SOCKS TO HENRY!

HOW DO *YOU* KNOW, GEORGE?

BECAUSE *I SENT THEM!*

BUT... THE *NOTE!* IN GERALDINE'S *HANDWRITING!*

WROTE IT *MYSELF...* NOTHING TO IT... SOME JOKE, EH?

HA! HA! HA! HA!

IS--IS IT TRUE THAT YOU DIDN'T SEND THESE SOCKS, GERALDINE?

I DIDN'T SAY I DID, HENRY! ALL I SAID WAS I'M GLAD YOU LIKE THEM!

HA! HA! HA! HA!

WELL ANYWAY NOW WE'RE *EVEN*, GEORGE!

EVEN? WHAT DO YOU MEAN, HENRY?

I SENT YOU THOSE SOCKS YOU'RE WEARING NOW!

OF ALL THE *DIRTY TRICKS*, HENRY! WHEN I GET MY HANDS ON YOU!

BOYS! BOYS!

HEY, FELLAS, BREAK IT UP!

STOP!

GOSH, I'M SORRY, HENRY! I MEANT TO TRIP ONLY GEORGE, BUT I STUCK MY FOOT OUT TOO EARLY!

WILL YOU BOYS SIT DOWN AND BEHAVE YOURSELVES?

I *WAS* GOING TO SEND A PAIR OF ARGYLE SOCKS TO *ONE* OF YOU BOYS, BUT AFTER THE WAY YOU'VE BEHAVED, I'M GOING TO GIVE THEM TO MY *FATHER!*

WELL... THAT'S ALL RIGHT... AS LONG AS YOU'RE NOT GIVING THEM TO SOMEBODY YOU *LIKE!*

THE END

HENRY ALDRICH

HI, MRS. ALDRICH! HOW'S HENRY TODAY?

HELLO, HOMER... HENRY SAYS HE'S FEELING FINE TODAY. BUT HE'S STILL RUNNING A SLIGHT FEVER.

COME IN.

YOU CAN GO RIGHT UP.

HI, HENRY!

HOW'S THE PATIENT TODAY?

I'M FEELING *FINE*, HOMER! BUT IT DOESN'T SEEM TO **MATTER** HOW I FEEL!

ACCORDING TO THE **THERMOMETER**, I'M **SICK!!**... IT ONLY SHOWS A FRACTION OF AN INCH ABOVE NORMAL, BUT I'VE GOT TO STAY N BED AND DISAPPOINT GERALDINE TONIGHT...

OH, YOU CAN STOP WORRYING ABOUT **GERALDINE**, HENRY!

"I MET GEORGE BIGELOW A LITTLE WHILE AGO AND HE SAID **HE'S** TAKING GERALDINE TO THE DANCE TONIGHT.

WHAT?

I MIGHT HAVE **KNOWN** GEORGE WOULD MOVE IN AS SOON AS HE HEARD I WAS SICK!

...AND **GERALDINE!** SHE SEEMED SO **SYMPATHETIC** WHEN I TOLD HER ON THE PHONE THAT I WAS SICK!

WOULDN'T YOU THINK SHE'D STAY HOME TONIGHT OUT OF RESPECT FOR ME?

SHE PROBABLY WOULD IF YOU WERE **DEAD**, HENRY.

WOULDN'T **THEY** BE SURPRISED IF I SHOWED UP AT THE DANCE TONIGHT!

LISTEN, HOMER, GO DOWNSTAIRS AND TELL MY MOTHER THAT YOU'VE NEVER SEEN ME LOOKING BETTER!

MRS. ALDRICH, I'VE NEVER SEEN HENRY LOOKING BETTER...

OH... **REALLY**, HOMER?

WELL? WHAT DID SHE SAY, HOMER?

ER...HERE'S YOUR MOTHER, HENRY. SHE'S GOING TO TAKE YOUR TEMPERATURE.

HENRY SURE WOULD LIKE TO GO TO THAT DANCE, MRS. ALDRICH.

I'M AFRAID HE JUST CAN'T GO IF HE HAS A TEMPERATURE, HOMER.

MMFF.

EVEN WITH A SLIGHT TEMPERATURE, I THINK HE'D BE SAFE IF HE PROMISED TO DANCE ONLY THE **SLOW** NUMBERS.

WE'LL HAVE TO FOLLOW THE DOCTOR'S ORDERS, HOMER.

I'LL TAKE THAT NOW, HENRY.

I HATE TO DISAPPOINT YOU, HENRY, BUT IT'S STILL ABOVE NORMAL.

GEE WHIZ!

MAYBE YOU'RE JUST NATURALLY WARM-BLOODED, HENRY! ARE YOU SURE THERE ISN'T ANY LATIN BLOOD IN THE FAMILY?

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TOLD ME ABOUT GEORGE BIGELOW! I'LL BET **THAT** RAISED MY TEMPERATURE!

WELL...I'LL HAVE TO BE RUNNING ALONG, HENRY.

LISTEN, HOMER, WILL YOU DO ME A FAVOR? WHEN YOU SEE GERALDINE AT THE DANCE TONIGHT, WILL YOU MENTION THAT YOU NEVER SAW ME LOOKING SO BAD?

OH, SURE, HENRY! I'LL REMEMBER TO DO THAT.

TRY TO SAY IT WITH A LITTLE CATCH IN YOUR VOICE, HOMER.

IF GERALDINE WAS SICK, I'D THINK ENOUGH OF HER NOT TO GO TO ANY ***DANCES!***

ESPECIALLY WITH ***GEORGE BIGELOW!***

HELLO... MRS. ALDRICH... IS HENRY HOME? I HEAR HE'S SICK...

OH, COME IN, . WILLY! HE'LL BE GLAD TO SEE YOU.

HI, HENRY!

HI, WILLY! GOSH, I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU, WILLY!

POPULAR SPORTS

HOW DO YOU FEEL, WILLY?

I FEEL FINE, HENRY.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO ME A LITTLE FAVOR, WILLY?

GO DOWNSTAIRS AND STROLL INTO THE KITCHEN... TELL MY MOTHER THAT YOU WANT A GLASS OF WATER... AND WHILE YOU'RE DRINKING IT, MENTION THAT YOU THINK I'M THE PICTURE OF HEALTH.

DO YOU MIND IF I HELP MYSELF TO A GLASS OF WATER, MRS. ALDRICH?

NOT AT ALL, WILLY...GO RIGHT AHEAD.

DON'T YOU THINK HENRY LOOKS **MARVELOUS**, WILLY?

GOSH, MRS. ALDRICH, YOU TOOK THE WORDS RIGHT OUT OF MY MOUTH! I WAS GOING TO SAY HE LOOKED THE PICTURE OF HEALTH!

HERE...WILL YOU PLEASE TAKE THIS TO HENRY, WILLY?

WHAT DID SHE SAY, WILLY?

SHE SAID TO GIVE THIS TO YOU.

POPULAR

WHAT DOES IT SAY, HENRY?

GEE WHIZ! IT **STILL** SAYS NINETY-NINE! IT SHOULD BE NINETY-EIGHT POINT SIX.

I... BETTER BE GOING, HENRY.

WAIT, WILLY! I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU TO DO SOMETHING FOR ME.

YOU'RE GOING TO THE DANCE TONIGHT, AREN'T YOU?

WHY, YES, HENRY...

IF YOU HAPPEN TO MEET GERALDINE, WILLYOU MENTION THAT YOU SAW ME TODAY AND YOU WERE SHOCKED AT HOW BAD I LOOKED?

SURE, HENRY.

MAYBE HER CONSCIENCE WILL BOTHER HER... MAYBE SHE'LL THINK I TOOK A TURN FOR THE WORSE WHEN I HEARD SHE WAS GOING TO THE DANCE WITH GEORGE BIGELOW...

HI, HENRY!

HI, BRUCE! COME IN, COME IN!

POPULAR SPORTS

HOW DO YOU FEEL, HENRY?

GEE WHIZ, I FEEL *FINE*, BRUCE! BUT ACCORDING TO THE THERMOMETER, I'M *SICK!*

YOU LOOK OKAY.

I'LL TRY IT AGAIN.

I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU LOOKING BETTER.

MFFF...

GEE WHIZ! NINETY-NINE! AGAIN!

WELL... I GUESS I'LL BE GOING, HENRY.

WAIT, BRUCE! YOU'RE GOING TO THE DANCE TONIGHT, AREN'T YOU?

YEH... SOME GIRL ASKED ME...

WELL, LISTEN, BRUCE... IF YOU SEE GERALDINE, WILL YOU TELL HER THAT YOU SAW ME...! AND... YOU DON'T THINK I CAN LAST MUCH LONGER?

YEH... SURE... HENRY.

JUST MENTION IT CASUALLY, BRUCE... AS THOUGH IT DIDN'T MATTER ONE WAY OR THE OTHER TO YOU.

GEE WHIZ... IT'S FUNNY THAT I SHOULD FEEL SO GOOD... AND YET THE THERMOMETER SAYS I HAVE A FEVER...

SIX O'CLOCK! IF I WASN'T SICK, I'D BE GETTING READY FOR THE DANCE NOW...

IF IT WASN'T FOR THIS DARNED THERMOMETER...

GEE WHIZ! MAYBE.... MAYBE IT'S--

MOTHER!! MOTHER!!

YES, HENRY! WHAT IS IT?

MOTHER, HAS FATHER COME HOME YET?

NO, HENRY! IS THERE ANY-THING I CAN DO?

NO, MOTHER... BUT WILL YOU PLEASE LET ME KNOW THE MINUTE FATHER COMES HOME?

R-I-I-I-NG!

OH, THERE'S THE PHONE! EXCUSE ME, HENRY!

IF IT'S FOR *ME*, MOTHER, I THINK I CAN MAKE IT TO THE PHONE!

THAT WAS YOUR FATHER, HENRY... HE'S BEEN DELAYED AT THE OFFICE... SOME LAST MINUTE BUSINESS...

OOOOH! WOULDN'T YOU KNOW HE'D BE LATE *TONIGHT!*

ARE YOU SURE IT'S SOMETHING **I** CAN'T DO FOR YOU, HENRY?

NO, MOTHER-- I MEAN YES, MOTHER... I'LL WAIT TILL FATHER COMES HOME.

WAIT! ***MARY!*** ***SHE*** SHOULD BE HOME ANY MINUTE! WILL YOU PLEASE TELL HER TO COME STRAIGHT UP TO MY ROOM WHEN SHE COMES IN, MOTHER?

CERTAINLY, HENRY.

I THINK SHE'S AT THE DOOR, NOW!

SEND HER ***STRAIGHT UP,*** MOTHER!

HENRY! MOTHER SAID YOU WANTED TO SEE ME...

YES, MARY! I WANT YOU TO DO ME A SIMPLE LITTLE FAVOR...

I WANT TO TAKE YOUR TEMPERATURE, MARY... ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS HOLD THIS IN YOUR MOUTH FOR A MOMENT OR TWO...

IS THAT THE SAME THERMOMETER *YOU'VE* BEEN USING?

THAT ISN'T *SANITARY*, HENRY. I DON'T WANT TO CATCH ANY-THING!

BUT YOU WON'T CATCH ANYTHING, MARY! DIDN'T YOU NOTICE THAT I SHOOK IT DOWN? IT'S *BELOW THE FEVER LINE NOW!*

DON'T BE SILLY, HENRY! YOU KNOW BETTER THAN *THAT!*

MARY! *PLEASE!* AW, MARY!

SOME PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS THINK-ING OF THEM-SELVES!

I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL FATHER COMES HOME.

AN HOUR OR SO LATER...

HENRY, YOUR MOTHER SAID YOU WANTED TO SEE ME AS SOON 'AS I--

GOSH, FATHER, AM I *GLAD TO SEE YOU!*

WHAT IS IT YOU WANTED, HENRY?

I ONLY WANTED TO TAKE YOUR TEM-PERATURE, FATHER! I HOPE YOU WON'T MIND.

IT'LL ONLY TAKE A MINUTE!

BUT I FEEL ALL RIGHT, HENRY! I DON'T SEE WHY--

PLEASE, FATHER! THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT TO ME!

WELL... I'LL HAVE TO STERILIZE IT FIRST... I BELIEVE THERE'S SOME MEDICINAL ALCOHOL IN THE CABINET.

GEE WHIZ! I NEVER THOUGHT OF ***THAT!***

YOU ONLY HAVE TO HOLD IT IN YOUR MOUTH FOR ABOUT A MINUTE, FATHER.

MFFF...

ALL RIGHT, FATHER... I GUESS YOU CAN TAKE IT OUT NOW.

MMMFF...

NOW... WHAT DOES IT SAY, FATHER?

NINETY-NINE!

WOW! I KNEW IT! THERE'S ***SOMETHING WRONG WITH THE THERMOMETER!***

WELL, NOW.. WAIT A MINUTE, HENRY!

LISTEN, FATHER, THAT THING HAS BEEN REGISTERING NINETY-NINE ALL DAY! IF I'M SICK, THEN **YOU'RE SICK, TOO!**

I THINK IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA TO TRY IT ON SOMEONE ELSE.

MARY!

I'M AFRAID YOU'LL HAVE TO STERILIZE IT **AGAIN**, FATHER! MARY IS AWFULLY SQUEEMISH ABOUT--

HMM... MINUTE'S ABOUT UP NOW...

HURRY UP! TAKE IT OUT, MARY!

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

NINETY-NINE!

WOW!

WOULD YOU MIND IF WE TOOK YOUR TEMPERATURE, ALICE?

NOT AT ALL, SAM.

WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?

I GUESS WE CAN LOOK AT IT NOW.

I WISH SOMEONE WOULD THROW A LITTLE LIGHT ON ALL THIS...

YOURS IS NINETY-NINE, TOO, ALICE!

BUT--

SEE? EVERYBODY IS NINETY-NINE!

EITHER WE'RE ALL SICK AND SHOULD BE IN BED OR WE'RE ALL WELL AND SHOULD BE UP AND AROUND!

I'M AFRAID THIS THERMOMETER IS DEFECTIVE, ALICE.

WAIT! I HAVE A THERMOMETER OF MY OWN!

HERE, TRY THIS, HENRY!

GLADLY! I'LL TRY ANYBODY'S THERMOMETER.

I SUPPOSE IT'S POSSIBLE FOR THESE THINGS TO GO WRONG, TOO!

KEEP YOUR MOUTH CLOSED, HENRY.

MGLPH.

NINETY-EIGHT POINT SIX! EXACTLY!

WOW! I KNEW I WAS ALL RIGHT!

WHERE'S MY PANTS?

WHERE'S MY SHOES?

WHERE'S MY--

HENRY!

MEANWHILE...

HELLO, HOMER!

DO YOU KNOW HOW HENRY IS DOING?

HE'S VERY BAD, GERALDINE...VERY BAD.

HELLO... GERALDINE... I SAW HENRY TODAY... GOSH, HE LOOKS AWFUL...

...YES, I SAW HIM TODAY, GERALDINE... I DON'T THINK HE CAN POSSIBLY LAST MUCH LONGER...

OH, *DEAR!*

HE *CAN'T* BE *THAT* BAD!

OH, GEORGE... I FEEL *TERRIBLE* ABOUT THIS! I MEAN, HERE WE ARE DANCING AND ENJOYING OURSELVES AND POOR HENRY...

WELL, LET'S HAVE ONE MINUTE'S SILENCE, AND GET BACK TO DANCING!

I THINK YOU OUGHT TO BE *ASHAMED OF YOURSELF, GEORGE!*

LISTEN, EVERYBODY!! HENRY ALDRICH IS *TERRIBLY SICK!* WOULDN'T IT BE *NICE* IF WE ALL *WENT OVER THERE AND PAID HIM A VISIT?*

LET'S GO!

LET'S GO!

POOR HENRY.

ROOM FOR *TWO MORE* IN MY CAR!

HURRY, EVERYBODY!

HOMER... I HOPE WE'RE NOT... TOO... LATE.

OH NO, GERALDINE... THE ALDRICHES DON'T GO TO BED BEFORE ELEVEN.

LISTEN... DON'T YOU THINK *I* OUGHT TO GO IN FIRST? I MEAN, JUST TO SEE IF HENRY IS... IS STRONG ENOUGH TO SEE ALL OF YOU PEOPLE?

CERTAINLY.

GOOD IDEA, HOMER!

WE'LL WAIT OUT HERE.

YOU UNDERSTAND... IT... MIGHT BE TOO MUCH FOR HIM...

RING!

IT'S ME, MRS. ALDRICH! QUICK, LET ME IN!

WHY, HENRY WILL BE RIGHT DOWN, HOMER! HE'S ALMOST FINISHED DRESSING!

OH, GOSH!

?

HENRY! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?

SURPRISE! I'M GOING TO THE DANCE, HOMER!

LISTEN, HENRY--YOU CAN'T DO THAT! EVERYBODY THINKS YOU'RE DYING! THEY ALL LEFT THE DANCE AND CAME OVER HERE JUST TO CHEER YOU UP! THEY'RE ALL DOWNSTAIRS!

GEE WHIZ! I--I FEEL FINE!

WELL, THAT'S TOO BAD, HENRY! YOU TOLD ME TO SAY YOU WERE VERY SICK! YOU CAN'T GO AROUND DISAPPOINTING PEOPLE THAT WAY!

BUT... I WANT TO GO TO THE DANCE!

ALL RIGHT, YOU CAN COME UP NOW.

SHHH...

QUIET...

HELLO... HENRY...

OOOOOH!

HOW DO YOU FEEL, HENRY?

IS THAT YOU, GERALDINE?... PLEASE... HOLD MY... HAND...

YES... OF COURSE, HENRY.

I THINK... I'M FEELING A LITTLE BETTER ALREADY, GERALDINE.

GEE WHIZ! I SEEM TO BE FEELING *MUCH* BETTER NOW!

I CAN ACTUALLY *FEEL* THE STRENGTH FLOWING BACK INTO MY VEINS!

THIS IS MARVELOUS, GERALDINE! HE SEEMS COMPLETELY OKAY NOW!

BUT--

IT'S THE *TOUCH OF YOUR HAND*, GERALDINE!

BUT JUST TO BE ABSOLUTELY *SURE* THAT I'M OKAY, I THINK I SHOULD TAKE MY *TEMPERATURE*. WILL YOU GO ASK MY SISTER MARY FOR HER THERMOMETER, HOMER?

SURE, HENRY!

HERE YOU ARE, HENRY!

I DON'T FEEL A *BIT* FEVERISH NOW!

I HAVE AN IDEA THAT HENRY WILL BE DANCING WITH YOU IN A LITTLE WHILE, GERALDINE!

MMFF...

NOW...WE'LL SEE... HERE, **YOU** LOOK AT IT, GERALDINE!

OH, DEAR! ONE HUNDRED AND TWO!

WHAT? LET ME LOOK AT IT!

IT... **IS** ONE HUNDRED AND TWO!

THAT'S A TERRIBLY HIGH FEVER, HENRY!

NOW YOU JUST STAY RIGHT THERE IN BED TILL YOU'RE GOOD AND WELL!

BUT-- BUT--

HOW SHOULD **I** HAVE KNOWN THAT HOLDING HER HAND WOULD RAISE MY TEMPERATURE?

THE END

HENRY ALDRICH PLANS THE PICNIC

(Continued from inside front cover)

Mr. Aldrich came in, lit his pipe and picked up his paper. "You're helping your mother with the dishes, aren't you, Henry?" he asked.

"Gee whiz, Father, I'd like to, but Homer and I have just GOT to get our plans worked out tonight!"

"Yes, Mr. Aldrich," agreed Homer, "after all, the picnic is tomorrow!"

"What?" cried Mr. Aldrich. "Do you mean to say you've waited until NOW to plan food and transportation for a picnic TOMORROW?"

"Sure, Father!" Henry began.

"And never considered that I might be using the car?" thundered Mr. Aldrich.

"No, Mr. Aldrich," quavered Homer.

"Or that tomorrow is a holiday and the stores are closed," Mr. Aldrich continued, "so you can't possibly shop for food anyway!"

Henry's mouth dropped open, "A—A—holiday?"

"What'll we do for food, Homer?" Henry moaned.

"And transportation too, Henry."

"We could call everybody and have them bring their own food, Homer."

Homer scratched his head. "Yeh . . . and furnish their own transportation, I suppose."

They tried still more ideas and made several telephone calls but nothing seemed to work. There just didn't seem to be any solution. In desperation, Homer went home—and Henry went up to bed.

Mrs. Aldrich had just picked up her sewing when Mr. Aldrich laid down his newspaper and knocked the ashes out of his pipe.

"Alice," he said, "I suppose I was rather unreasonable. I COULD get Mr. Wilkinson to drive us over in his car and let Henry have ours tomorrow, couldn't I?"

"Yes, Sam, and I was thinking that I COULD make some sandwiches with that ham that Aunt Bess sent us."

"Certainly, I'll call Wilkinson right now," exclaimed Mr. Aldrich and rushed to the telephone, while Mrs. Aldrich disappeared into the kitchen to tackle the sandwiches.

Early next morning, Homer arrived at the Aldrich home with a live chicken, which he had "borrowed", tucked under his arm.

"Look, Henry," he said proudly, "chicken sandwiches!"

"No, ham, Homer," Henry corrected and explained what his parents had done.

The boys finally got under way in the car, having thanked Mr. and Mrs. Aldrich profusely. They took along the chicken as Homer felt he would like to "return" it before they picked up anyone else.

On the way, they spotted Geraldine at a bus stop and Henry drew up to the curb.

"Hop in, Geraldine!" cried Homer, swinging open the door. But before Geraldine could answer, there was a loud SQUAWK, and out flew the chicken right into her face.

"Catch him, Henry," shouted Homer, and the two boys jumped out in pursuit. But they returned empty-handed; the chicken had "flown the coop."

Geraldine was indignant until the boys explained. Then she laughed.

"But, Henry," she chuckled, "your picnic isn't until NEXT week, silly!"

There was a pause—

"Oh, no, no!" both boys cried, "now what'll we do? We can't possibly go back home now!"

"Listen," suggested Geraldine, "pick up Agnes and we'll have a picnic anyway!"

Henry and Homer agreed enthusiastically and as it turned out, this picnic was a resounding success. Geraldine was made chairman of the entertainment committee. Agnes was given the task of explaining later to her father what had happened to one of his prize chickens, and the chairmen of the transportation and food committees stuffed themselves with ham sandwiches, of which needless to say, there was an ample supply!

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